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To: Examiner Peter Choi
US Patent Office
Fax Phone Number: (571) 273-8300

Art Unit: 3623

Application Control Number 10/036,200

Date: July 11, 2008

From Norman Ken Ouchi


Examiner Choi

Attached are the response to the office action mailed May 13, 2008..

Ten pages plus this cover sheet

Please call me at 408 757 5862 to discuss this response.

Thank you,



Norman Ken Ouchi

JUL 11 2008

Response to Office Action Mailed 5/13/08

Examiner: Peter Ouchi

Art Unit: 3623

Title: Object Based Workflow Route

Application Number: 10/036,200

Confirmation Number 2842

Inventor: Norman Ken Ouchi

Date: July 11, 2008

Summary

This action is FINAL

Claims 21-39 are pending.

Claims 21-39 are rejected.

Claims Rejection

Claims 21-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 21-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Du et al (US Patent 5,826,237) in view of Kenton (US Patent 6,845,507)

Discussion**35 U.S.C. 112 Rejection****Claims 21, 29, 32**

The first workflow means and second workflow means are separate, independent, and operating asynchronously from each other. The first object route is composed of object steps which are processed by the first workflow means and the first route is composed of steps which are processed by the second workflow means. Each object step is associated with a route segment composed of steps. The first route is formed by connecting the associated route segments in the sequence of the object steps of the object route and not connected to the object route.

As noted by the Examiner, the first route is derived from the first object route and the first routes are not independent of each other since the first route is formed from the sequence of object steps.

The references to ERP and shopfloor systems have been removed since these add no value.

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